

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-8 have been amended. Claims 9-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

II. TITLE

A new title has been substituted.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

III. ABSTRACT

The Abstract has been amended.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3 AND 6-8 UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-8 have been amended herein to overcome the rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-8 UNDER 35 USC § 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HAKEN (U.S. PUB. 2004/0008972).

Independent claim 1, for example, recites an information browse sharing method comprising a first search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to the first user; a second search condition information setting step, inputted by any one among a plurality of users, for searching information suited to the second user, an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of elements, for an information element with respect to a third user in accordance with information derived from the first search condition information and information derived from said second search condition information and an information presenting step of presenting to a third user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result.

The Examiner asserts that Haken discloses an information browse sharing method comprising: a first search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to this user, as a first search

condition information on this user; a second search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching information suited to this other user, as second search condition information on this other user an information searching step for searching from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements and disclosed in paragraphs 34 and 37-39.

On the contrary, paragraphs 34 and 37-39 of Haken disclose method specifying a particular television program-recording event via a recommendation by a particular group member to another member of the group. However, it is respectfully submitted that as recited for example in claim 1, the present invention relates to an information browsing and sharing method where information derived from a first search condition for a first user and information derived from a second search condition from a second user is searched for an information element with respect to a third user. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Haken does provide an information browse supporting and sharing method as indicated above.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be useful in understanding the differences in various other claims over the cited references.

Please note that claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended herein to recite an information browse sharing method. Claim 7 has also been amended herein to recite a program causing a computer to execute a process comprising information retrieval and sharing. Claim 1 for example, further discloses an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a third user in accordance with information derived from the first search condition information set in said first search condition setting step and information derived from the second search condition information set in said second condition information setting step for information retrieval. See, for example, page 16, line 25, through page 24, line 14.

Please note that claims 1 specifically recites an information browse sharing method having an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a third user in accordance with information derived from the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step and information derived from the second search condition information set in said second search condition information setting step. Claim 6, specifically recites a step of receiving from said server a result of searching based on the conditions set corresponding to information derived from the first and second users in said first

and second search condition information setting steps. Independent claim 7 specifically recites a program causing a computer to execute a process comprising an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a third user. Similarly, claim 8 discloses an information searching unit for searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a third user. It is respectfully submitted that the reference does not disclose nor suggest these features.

Claim 2 recites an information browse sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein the second search condition information setting step involves setting the information in such a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies other user to establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition information on the second user and said information presenting step involves presenting a user pieces of information on the respective information elements searched with respect to this user, and presenting a piece of information indicating a setting user set as one element of mapping by way of the second search condition information with respect to the respective information elements searched.

Haken discloses a method wherein a "verification protocol list can be flagged to differentiate [TV programming] recommendations from schedule changes" in paragraphs 9 and 34. The present invention as recited for example in claim 2, however, relates to an information browse sharing method wherein said second search condition information setting step involves setting the information inputted in such a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies other users to establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition. The present invention discloses a method of sharing search information, not recommendations as taught by Haken. See for example, page 26, line 17 – page 28, line 20.

Claim 3 further discloses a second information searching step of searching, based on the second search condition information set by a third user with respect to second user in said second search condition information setting step, for an information element suited to this second user from the browsing target information, and checking whether or not the thus searched information element is searched by the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step with respect to the second user; and a second information presenting step of presenting to a third user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result and a checked result with respect to a third user in said second information

searching step.

In paragraphs 9 and 34-37, Haken discloses a method of allowing a user to share recommendations of certain television programming. The present invention, however, allows a plurality of users to share search condition information. The amended claim 3 more specifically discloses a method of allowing the second search condition information set a by a third user with respect to second user, for an information element suited to this second user and checking whether or not the thus searched information element is searched by the first search condition. Haken does not disclose the method as described by claim 3.

Claim 4 discloses a information browse sharing method, wherein the first search condition information contains one or more pieces of information consisting of a keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether nor not a permission of using this keyword is given second user, and the second information searching step involves performing the check about the searched information element by use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the confidential flag contained in the first search condition information set in the first search condition information setting step with respect to other user indicates the permission of user.

Haken discloses a method of allowing certain users to automatically record recommended television programming for other users if they have the proper authority (e.g. a parent automatically records programming for a child) in paragraphs 9 and 34-37. The present invention in the amended claim 4 however, discloses a information browse sharing method consisting of a keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether or not a permission of using this keyword is given to a second user, and said second information searching step involves performing the check about the searched information element by use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the confidential flag contained in the first search condition information set indicates the permission of the user. See for example, page 28, line 24 – page 31, line 1.

Claim 5 discloses generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information inputted in such a way that any one of a plurality of users specifies a second user.

The Examiner references paragraphs 39-41 to assert Haken discloses a method of analyzing natural language information to generate a search, however, these paragraphs describe a method of control a personal television recorder remotely using the internet, remote control, PC or PDA. Haken does not disclose generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information as recited, for example, in claim 5.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

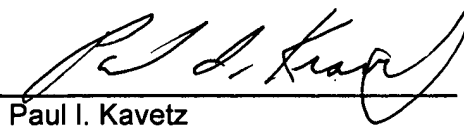
Respectfully submitted,

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